

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

SRIKRISHNA TALLURI

Group No.: 2171

Examiner: H. Herndon

Serial No.: 09/711,791

Filed: November 13, 2000

Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR USING A
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO ARCHIVE AND
RETRIEVE BIBLIOGRAPHY INFORMATION AND
REFERENCE MATERIAL

FAX RECEIVED

Attorney Docket No.: BUO 0101 PUS

OCT 02 2003

Technology Center 2100

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
FOR NEW APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231
ATTENTION: Group Director, Group No. 2171 (M.P.E.P. § 1002.02(c))

Sir:

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VIII, the Applicant hereby petitions to make this new application special, further noting that the application has yet to be examined.

All the claims in this case are believed to be directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, then the Applicant will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this paper, including all enclosures referred to herein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail, postage pre-paid, in an envelope addressed to: Attention Group Director, Group 2171, Commissioner for Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

April 25, 2003
Date of Deposit

James N. Kallis
Name of Person Signing

[Signature]
Signature

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I. Pre-Examination Search by a Professional Searcher

A professional searcher made a pre-examination search at the U.S. Patent Office in June of 2000. A copy of the professional searcher's letter dated June 15, 2000 regarding the results of the pre-examination search is attached herewith. The professional searcher searched the following at the U.S. Patent Office:

Search Feature:

General: A material archival and retrieval system.

Specific: A method and apparatus for authors of research papers, books, and hypertext essays to uniquely identify web-based material by a distinctive key other than that used to locate them on the Internet for citing said web-based material. In addition, the present invention archives the web-based reference material and retrieves the same by using the distinctive key, thus acting as a method by which the cited reference material can be verified by anyone. Finally, permanently and uniquely identifying all material by means of a distinctive key by permanently and uniquely archiving such material under that distinctive key, thus protecting the web-based material from continuous modification and removal from their existing address, while providing an avenue for sharing even non web-related reference material with everyone.

Application: Web-base resource locator.

Fields of Search

1. Data Processing: Database and file management, data structures, or document processing (Class 707, Subclasses 3, 5, 500, 501, 530)
2. Electrical Computers and Digital Processing Systems: Multiple Computer or Process Coordinating (Class 709, Subclass 203)
3. Electrical Computers and Digital Data Processing Systems: Input/Output (Class 710, Subclass 39)

List of references developed as a result of the pre-examination search

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,530,899 (MacDonald)

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2. U.S. Patent No. 5,272,156 (Herr-Hoyman et al.)
3. U.S. Patent No. 5,557,790 (Bingham et al.)
4. U.S. Patent No. 5,870,552 (Dozier et al.)
5. U.S. Patent No. 5,870,770 (Wolfe)
6. U.S. Patent No. 5,873,107 (Borovoy et al.)
7. U.S. Patent No. 5,941,944 (Messerly)
8. U.S. Patent No. 5,970,505 (Ebrahim)
9. U.S. Patent No. 6,009,442 (Chen et al.)

The Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) on November 13, 2000 to cite each of these U.S. Patents developed as a result of the pre-examination search. The attached copy of the professional searcher's letter provides a brief overview of the developed U.S. Patent Nos. 5,557,790; 5,727,156; 5,941,944; 5,970,505; and 6,009,442. The attached copy of the professional searcher's letter indicates that developed U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,899; 5,870,552; 5,870,770; and 5,873,107 provide general background information. As indicated by the attached copy of the professional searcher's letter, developed U.S. Patent Nos. 5,970,505 and 6,009,442 appear to be the most relevant references.

a. Detailed Discussion of References

The professional searcher noted that U.S. Patent No. 5,970,505 in regard to a unique identifier and 6,009,442 in regard to an archival and retrieval system appear to be the closest references located during the course of the search. Upon careful consideration of the teachings of the '505 and '442 patents, the Applicant believes that the claimed invention set forth in claims 1-25 of the above-identified patent application are patentable over any combination of the '505 and '442 patents.

1. The Claimed Invention

As set forth in representative independent claim 1, the claimed invention is a system for archiving reference material in a bibliography of a manuscript using a

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communications network. The system includes first and second communication devices and a database which are all connected to a communications network such as the Internet. An author of a manuscript uses the first communication device to transfer identification of reference material (such as a web page) cited by the author in the manuscript to the communications network. An audience of a manuscript uses the second communications device to request and receive a copy of the reference material cited by the author in the manuscript from the communications network. The database communicates with the author and the audience via the communications network. The database receives the identification of reference material cited by the author from the author and stores a copy of the reference material (i.e., stores a copy of the web page in its current form when cited by the author) and a distinctive key associated with the copy of the reference material. The database transmits a copy of the reference material to the audience (i.e., transmits a copy of the web page in its current form when cited by the author) in response to receiving a request from the audience for a copy of the reference material.

The claimed invention provides a solution to the problem of citing web sites and other highly modifiable information sources as references in a manuscript. Such information sources are typically subject to frequent, invisible modifications and, in the case of web sites, may be moved to new address or removed from the Internet without notice. The claimed invention solves the noted problems by storing a copy of the web site as cited by the author's manuscript on a database connected to the Internet. An audience member reading the author's manuscript may then access the stored web site in order to verify the content of the actual web site cited by the author.

2. The Claimed Invention Compared to the '505 and '442 patents

The claimed invention is generally different than any combination of the teachings of the '505 and '442 patents in that none of these references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest an author transferring identification of reference material cited in a manuscript to a communications network and a database connected to the communications network which receives the identification of the cited reference material and stores a copy of

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the reference material and a distinctive key associated with the copy of the reference material such that the database may later transmit a copy of the reference material via the communications network to an audience of the manuscript in response to receiving a request from the audience for a copy of the cited reference material.

II. Pre-Examination Search by U.S. Patent Office PCT Search Authority

The U.S. Patent Office PCT Search Authority issued an International Search Report (ISR) for the corresponding foreign application PCT/US01/45536. The ISR was mailed on April 1, 2002. The ISR indicated that U.S. class 707, subclasses 1-206 were searched. The ISR further indicated that the WEST search terms "database", "author", "audience", "manuscript", and "Internet" were used in the search.

The ISR listed U.S. Patent Nos. 5,983,267 (Shklar et al.); 5,983,214 (Lang et al.); and 5,987,454 (Hobbs) as the documents considered to be relevant based on the search. The ISR indicated that each of these U.S. Patents is a "document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance."

The Applicant has submitted herewith an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) citing the three U.S. Patents cited in the ISR. The Applicant has also provided a copy of the ISR mailed on April 1, 2002, as part of the IDS submitted herewith.

III. Examination by U.S. Patent Office PCT Examining Authority

The U.S. Patent Office PCT Examining Authority issued an International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER) for the corresponding foreign application PCT/US01/45536. The IPER was mailed on September 12, 2002. The IPER indicated that claims 1-25 of the corresponding foreign application PCT/US01/45536 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4) because "the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest the particular limitations (such particular sending and receiving of manuscripts, etc.) in such particular contexts of the claimed inventions." Claims 1-25 of the corresponding foreign application

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PCT/US01/45536 are identical to claims 1-25 of the above-identified U.S. patent application. The Applicant has also provided a copy of the IPER mailed on September 12, 2002, as part of the IDS submitted herewith.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant requests that this Petition to Make Special be granted. A check in the amount of \$ 130.00 is enclosed to cover the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h). Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment as a result of filing this paper to Deposit Account No. 02-3978. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 25, 2003

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June 15, 2000

Via Federal Express

Brooks & Kushman
Donald J. Harrington, Esq.
1000 Town Center, 22 Floor
Southfield, Michigan 48075

RE: REFERENCE MATERIAL ARCHIVAL & RETRIEVAL SYSTEM
Our Docket: PSP-1002299

Dear Mr. Harrington:

In accordance with your request, we have conducted a Patentability search on the above-identified subject matter.

SEARCH FEATURE:

General: A material archival and retrieval system.

Specific: A method and apparatus for authors of research papers, books, and hypertext essays to uniquely identify web-based material by a distinctive key other than that used to locate them on the Internet for citing said web-based material. In addition, the present invention archives the web-based reference material and retrieves the same by using the distinctive key, thus acting as a method by which the cited reference material can be verified by anyone. Finally, permanently and uniquely identifying all material by means of a distinctive key by permanently and uniquely archiving such material under that distinctive key, thus protecting the web-based material from continuous modification and removal from their existing address, while providing an avenue for sharing even non web-related reference material with everyone.

Application: Web-base resource locator.

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June 15, 2000
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FIELD OF SEARCH:

The search of the above feature was conducted in the following areas:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Subclasses</u>	<u>Description</u>
707/		DATA PROCESSING: DATABASE AND FILE MANAGEMENT, DATA STRUCTURES, OR DOCUMENT PROCESSING
	3	.Query processing (i.e., searching)
	5	..Query augmenting and refining (e.g., inexact access)
	500	DOCUMENT PROCESSING
	501	.Hypermedia
	530	.Edit, composition, or storage control
709/		ELECTRICAL COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL PROCESSING SYSTEMS: MULTIPLE COMPUTER OR PROCESS COORDINATING
	203	..Client/server
710/		ELECTRICAL COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL DATA PROCESSING SYSTEMS: INPUT/OUTPUT
	39	..Access request queuing

The integrity of the search is based on the records as presented to us by the United States Patent Office. No further integrity studies were performed. Also a key word search was performed on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Automated Patent System computer database.

As a result of the search, the following patents were developed:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
5,530,899	MacDonald
5,272,156	Herr-Hoyman et al.
5,557,790	Bingham et al.
5,870,552	Dozier et al.
5,870,770	Wolfe
5,873,107	Borovoy et al.
5,941,944	Messerly
5,970,505	Ebrahim
6,009,442	Chen et al.

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DISCUSSION OF REFERENCES IN NUMERICAL ORDER:

The patent to Bingham et al. (5,557,790), assigned to International Business Machines, provides for a *Facility for the Generic Storage and Management of Multimedia Objects*. Disclosed within is a system that manages unique identifiers to quickly access a data object regardless of location and addressing structure. Furthermore, location and retrieval of these generic formats requires the usage of unique identifiers eliminating the need for file addressing techniques, (See column 3, lines 43-45)

The patent to Herr-Hoyman et al. (5,727,156), assigned to HotOffice Technologies, Inc., provides for an *Internet-Based Automatic Publishing System*. Explained within is a method for storing hypertext documents and associating them with a unique identifier. Furthermore, the system posts hypertext documents to a hypertext server allowing access to documents by users. (See column 1, lines 28-32) Note: There is no specific mention of an archival system.

The patent to Messerly (5,941,944), assigned to Microsoft Corporation, provides for a *Method for Providing a Substitute for a Requested Inaccessible Object by Identifying Substantially Similar Objects Using Weights Corresponding to Object Features*. Discussed within is object identifier or signatures that uniquely identify a file or object holding text. Further, the method may be applied to resolve and repair other references to objects, files and network resources that are not hyperlinks. (See column 4, lines 17-20)

The patent to Ebrahim (5,970,505), assigned to Sun Microsystems, Inc., provides for *Linking Related Data in a Document Set Including a Plurality of Books Written by Different Groups of Authors in a Computer Network*. Described within is a system that enables an author of a document to locate referenced information. In addition, each time the document is updated, or as requested by the author, the author's tags and other tags that reference information are exported to a tag repository that is accessible to all other author's. Finally, an author of a first book tagging an information unit (iunit) in that book with a tag that provides a unique identifier (See column 2, lines 5-10)

The patent to Chen et al. (6,009,442), assigned to Caere Corporation, provides for a *Computer-Based Document Management System*. Discussed within is an efficient way to automatically retrieve and archive electronic documents. Further, a method for identifying an electronic document is an electronic document collection. In addition, if a document is modified the retrieval engine updates the indexing database accordingly (See column 6, lines 33-37). Finally, a file helper utility continues to maintain a link to an index of each archived document by storing a thumbnail representation of each archival document. (See column 17, lines 53-56)

The following patents have been provided as general background information:

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>
5,530,899	MacDonald
5,870,552	Dozier et al.
5,870,770	Wolfe
5,873,107	Borovoy et al.

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SUMMARY:

The patents to Ebrahim (5,970,505) in regard to a unique identifier and Chen et al. (6,009,442) in regard to an archival and retrieval system appear to be the closest references located during the course of the search.

Enclosed with this report are copies of the above-listed patents, your disclosure materials and an invoice for the search. If we can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Randy W. Lacasse

Enclosures

RWL:tll

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(hsmith)